

CLAIMS

1. A method for preparing granules of active substances containing dietary fiber, characterized in that it consists in granulating a mixture of said active substances and branched maltodextrins having between 15 and 35% of 1-6 glucoside linkages, a reducing sugar content of less than 20%, a polymolecularity index of less than 5 and a number-average molecular mass M_n at most equal to 4500 g/mol, said branched maltodextrins content is of between 3 and 13% by weight of the mixture to be granulated.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the active substances are selected from the group consisting of starches and starch derivatives.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the starch derivatives are selected from the group consisting of dextrins, indigestible dextrins, maltodextrins and branched maltodextrins.
4. The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the starch derivatives are hydrogenated starch hydrolysates or conversion products of the hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, more particularly polyols, even more particularly polyols selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol and maltitol.
5. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said active substances are selected from the group consisting of sugars, strong sweeteners, enzymes, vitamins and pharmaceutical active principles.

6. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that it consists in:

5 - preparing a mixture of powdered active substances with powdered branched maltodextrins such that said branched maltodextrins content is of between 3 and 13%, preferably approximately 5%, by dry weight relative to the total solids content of the mixture,

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- introducing water in a proportion of 5 to 20%, preferably in a proportion of 10%, by weight of the resulting mixture, so as to obtain a homogeneous mixture of wet powders,

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- mechanically agitating the resulting homogeneous mixture of wet powders, in a mixer-granulator equipped with a sizing screen,

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- recovering and drying the granules as they exit said screen.

7. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that it consists in:

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- preparing a solution of branched maltodextrins at a solids content of between 10 and 50%, preferably at a solids content of approximately 25%,

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- spraying the resulting solution of branched maltodextrins onto the powder of active substances, in a dryer-granulator, the branched maltodextrins content is of between 3 and 13%, preferably approximately 5%, by dry weight of the total solids content of the mixture,

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- recovering and drying the resulting granules.

8. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the maltodextrins having between 15 and 35% of 1-6 glucoside linkages, a reducing sugar content of less than 20%, a polymolecularity index of less than 5 and a number-average molecular mass M_n at most equal to 4500 g/mol are used as a granulation binder for active substances.
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- 10 9. The use of the maltodextrins having between 15 and 35% of 1-6 glucoside linkages, a reducing sugar content of less than 20%, a polymolecularity index of less than 5 and a number-average molecular mass M_n at most equal to 4500 g/mol, as a granulation
- 15 binder for active substances.